

GLADSTONE GALLERY

“Trick or Treat?” Art Review, November 2003, p.22



Trick or treat?

Christmas in Austria is weird. On 6 December, the villagers are visited by St Nicholas, who brings them seasonal gifts. But with him come the Krampus, hairy beasts with horns that give naughty children what they deserve: they drag them out of the house, beat them up and scrub their faces with snow. Cameron Jamie filmed this strange ritual in *Kranky Klaus* (above), one of two new projects commissioned by Artangel. The film follows the procession as it in turn amuses and terrorizes the local population, with the camera almost becoming one of the beasts.

Kranky Klaus and *Spook House* – which explores Halloween in the working-class suburbs of Detroit – constitute a departure from Jamie's usual theme: wrestling. Previous works like *The New Life*, *La Baguette* or *BB* focused on the world of makebelieve, comedy and violence in both professional and back-yard wrestling. However, there are continuities, such as the soundtrack by The Melvins, who will perform at the screenings in several venues in the UK, and the ongoing interest in the mythologies of popular culture, which Jamie brings to life, in his own words, “in a zombie-like state”. For dates and further information, visit www.artangel.org.uk.